

How To Resight and Report Banded Piping Plovers

Please include the following information:

1. **Location** where the bird was seen (GPS coordinates are helpful).
2. **Date** when the bird was seen.
3. **Description of the bands and flags**
4. **Photo** of the bird if available

For banded piping plovers seen in South Carolina, please send this information to melissa_bimbi@fws.gov along with the appropriate contact in the table below:

<i>If Your Bird Has...</i>	<i>Report It To...</i>
Color bands (no flag) on just the upper legs	Michelle.Stantial@gmail.com and VT.plover@gmail.com
Green flag	VT.plover@gmail.com
Pink flag	BahamasPIPL@audubon.org and VT.plover@gmail.com
Black flag, White flag, or Gray flag	Cheri.Gratto-Trevor@canada.ca
Yellow flag or Cobalt Blue flag	npwrc.ternplover@usgs.gov
Orange flag or Metal band on an upper leg (no flag) and one or more color bands on the lower legs	plover@unm.edu
Light Blue flag	Joel.Jorgensen@nebraska.gov and npwrc.ternplover@usgs.gov
Red flag	dnewstead@cbbep.org



Photo: Sidney Maddock

This band combination would be recorded as: metal (ULL), dark blue (LLL), black flag (URL), red (LRU), black (LRL).



Tips For Deciphering and Recording Bands:

- Band combinations should be recorded in the following sequence: upper left (ULU), upper left lower (ULL), lower left upper (LLU), lower left lower (LLL), upper right upper (URU), upper right lower (URL), lower right upper (LRU), and lower right lower (LRL). “Right” and “left” are from the bird’s perspective, not the observer’s (just like a person’s right and left legs).
- Band types include flags (band with tab sticking out), metal, and color bands.
- Some bands may have alpha-numeric codes printed on the band or the flag (e.g., A1). The code, in addition to the color and location of the band or flag should be documented. Both the color of the band and the code (e.g., white writing on a green band) should be noted.
- Some bands are split (a single band with two colors; e.g., orange/blue) or triple split (a single band with three colors; e.g., blue/orange/blue).
- Sometimes two bands of the same color are placed over each other, appearing like one very tall band.
- Some piping plovers are banded on the upper legs only, and bands can be stacked (one above the other) on the upper leg.
- Record leg positions where bands are absent.
- Note if the color or type of any of the bands is uncertain or if some parts of a leg were not seen clearly.
- Recognize that band colors can fade over time.

For more information about bands, please consult http://www.fws.gov/charleston/pdf/PIPL_Band_Identification_Training.pdf

